

the Ducks in which there is a marked sexual difference in plumage. This post-nuptial plumage "is mainly restricted to the head, neck, breast and scapulars," and is acquired just prior to the loss of the flight feathers at the regular annual post-breeding moult; it is of dull tints, and rather loose structure, and is worn for only a few weeks, or during the period when the birds are unable to fly, through the loss of the flight-feathers by moult. "At such a time," says Mr. Stone, "a dull blended plumage would naturally be important in rendering the bird inconspicuous and thereby protecting it, and such I think is the explanation of this curious moult." Mr. Stone has here for the first time clearly described this temporary post-nuptial plumage and suggested its rôle in the economy of the species. As will be noticed later (see p. 186) Mr. Chapman has, independently and almost simultaneously, described this plumage in the King Eider and the Greenland Eider.—J. A. A.

Stone on a New Race of Short-eared Owl.—Mr. Stone finds¹ that a series of Short-eared Owls from Point Barrow, Alaska, in Mr. McIlhenny's collection are much paler than birds from Pennsylvania, and on this basis he has named the Point Barrow birds *Asio accipitrinus mcilhennyi*.—J. A. A.

Bangs on Colombian Birds.—Mr. Bangs has recently published two additional papers on the birds of the Santa Marta district of Colombia, based on collections made by Mr. W. W. Brown. The first² relates to a small collection made at San Sebastian, in June and July, 1899, at altitudes ranging from 6600 to 9000 feet, on the opposite side of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta from the points where his previous collections were made. The list numbers 29 species, six of which had not been previously taken by Mr. Brown, one of the latter, *Acestrura astreans*, being described as new.

The second paper³ relates to the two species of *Henicorhina* found to inhabit the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta region of Colombia, namely, the wide-ranging *H. leucophrys* and *H. anchoreta*, the latter here described as new, and as living in the higher parts of the mountains, at 11,000 to 12,000 feet, and above the range of *H. leucophrys*.—J. A. A.

Chapman on New Birds from Venezuela, etc.—A small collection of

¹ A New Race of Short-eared Owls. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sciences Phila., 1889, p. 478. Separates issued Dec. 29, 1899.

² On a Small Collection of Birds from San Sebastian, Colombia. By Outram Bangs. Proc. New Engl. Zool. Club, I, pp. 75-80, Dec. 27, 1899.

³ The Gray-breasted Wood Wrens of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. By Outram Bangs. *Ibid.* pp., 83, 84, Dec. 27, 1899.

birds made by Mr. F. W. Urich in northern Venezuela,¹ and numbering only 37 species, proved on examination to contain 5 that were apparently undescribed, namely: (1) *Setophaga verticalis pallidiventris*, (2) *Chlorospingus (Hemispingus) canipileus*, (3) *Mecocerculus nigriceps*, (4) *Mecocerculus urichi*, (5) *Synallaxis striatipectus*.

Mr. Chapman has also described two new subspecies of *Colymbus dominicus*,² an examination of this group in the light of the material in the American Museum of Natural History showing that there are two continental forms quite different from true *C. dominicus* of the West Indies. To the South American form (type locality, Chapada, Matto Grosso, Brazil) he has given the name *C. dominicus brachyrhynchus*, in allusion to its very small bill, and to the North American form (type locality, Lomita Ranch, Lower Rio Grande, Texas) the name *C. dominicus brachyptera*.—J. A. A.

Chapman on Birds from Greenland.³—The American Museum of Natural History has received various collections of birds from Greenland during the last few years, in connection with the work of the several Peary Expeditions to North Greenland. These collections aggregate about 500 specimens, and include several especially interesting series of plumages of Eiders, Gyrfalcons, Murres, Kittiwakes, etc., which Mr. Chapman in the present paper has turned to good use. The number of species represented is 48, and many of them are accompanied by the field notes of one of the collectors, Mr. J. D. Figgins, who accompanied the Peary Expedition of 1896. Unfortunately, the field notes for the Expedition of 1895, when one of the most important collections was made, under the supervision of Prof. L. L. Dyche, were unavailable for use in the present connection.

Mr. Chapman gives special attention to the growth and phases of plumage in such species as Brünnich's Murre, the Kittiwake, Fulmar, Greenland and King Eiders, and the Gyrfalcons, several of which are represented by series illustrating all the changes from the downy chick to the fully adult birds.

Incidentally, Mr. Chapman takes up the question of the relationship of *Rissa tridactyla* to *R. t. pollicaris*, and finds that while the development

¹ Descriptions of Five Apparently New Birds from Venezuela. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., XII, 1899, pp. 153-156. Aug. 5, 1899.

² Description of Two New Subspecies of *Colymbus dominicus* Linn. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. XII, 1899, pp. 255, 256. Dec. 23, 1899.

³ Report on Birds Received through the Peary Expeditions to Greenland. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XII, 1899, pp. 219-244. Dec. 23, 1899.